

ACQUISITION PROJECTS RCO MANUAL #3

For all acquisitions in the following programs available in 2010:

ALEA, LWCF, WWRP



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What is an acquisition project?

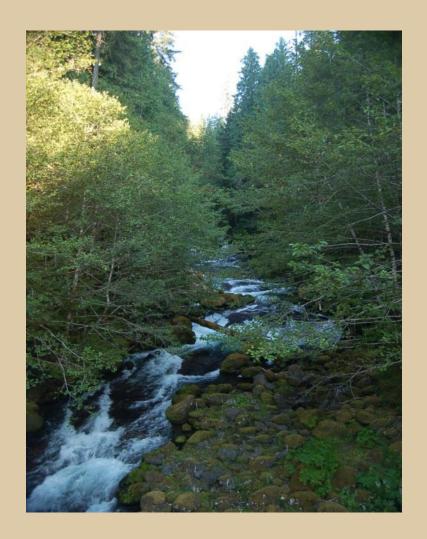
- Purchase of real property rights
- Fee or less than fee interests

Perpetual Interests

- Fee simple
- Easements

Term Interests

- Leases
- Term Easements
- Minimum term varies by grant program
- Cannot be revocable at will
- Cost must be lump sum payment up front







Eligible Properties/Projects

Public Access

- Parks
- Trails
- Waterfront
- Tidelands

Restricted Access

- Farmland
- Highly sensitive habitat
- Must disclose in application

Single or multi-parcel

Specify parcel(s) in your application

Refer to grant program manuals for details





Ineligible Properties

- Already owned by the Sponsor
- Established recreation or habitat areas owned or managed by a public entity
- For unrelated mitigation
- To be used for professional activities
- To be used for indoor facilities, with the following exceptions:
 - Swimming pools and ice rinks (LWCF)
 - Compatible support structures (restrooms, storage, cabins, caretaker's residence – varies by program)

[2007 Manual #3, pg 4]



Acquisition Projects

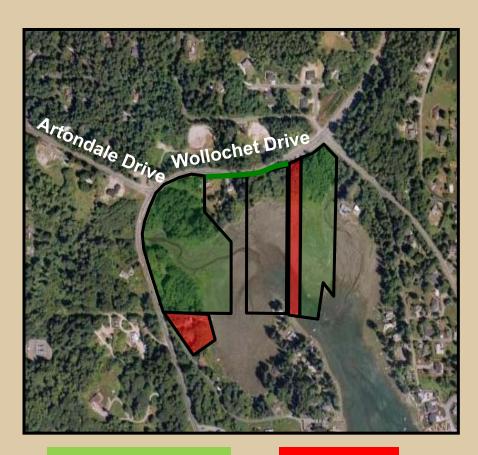
Eligible Costs

- Pre-Agreement
- Administrative (max 5% of total acquisition cost)
- Property
- Incidental
- Improvements if a compatible support structure; otherwise should be scheduled for demolition

Structures

 Review grant program policy manuals for eligibility details

LWCF – limited list of eligible costs



Existing Park

Addition

[2007 Manual #3, pgs 5-7]





Expenditures & Match

- Cash
- Other grants
- Donations
- Donated land value
- Expenditures and match must all be eligible, within project scope & in accordance with policy





What if I need to acquire the property now?

- Imminent threat of development
- Seller/donor can't wait

Waiver of Retroactivity

- Preserves opportunity for grant funding for next 2 grant cycles
- No guarantee of funding
- Allows acquisition of land prior to grant agreement or even an application
- Must request waiver in advance of closing
- Use standard checklist, memo, property information and questionnaire
- Section Manager approval

[2007 Manual #3, pg 7 & Appendix I]



Property to be immediately available for the purpose of the grant...but if needed:

Allowable Interim Land Uses

- Second Party Use
 - Pre-existing, continuing use
 - Minimal impact to public use
 - Phase out within 3 years
- Life Estates
 - Does not totally limit public use of site
 - Impact is addressed in the valuation (appraisal)
- Requires written approval from RCO
- Disclose in application and at evaluation



Procedures

- Uniform Real Property
 Acquisition required for most sponsors
 - Willing Seller
 - Appraisal and Review
 - Offer to purchase at estimated just compensation (based on review value)
 - Secure Option to Purchase or Acquire property
 - Relocation if necessary



[2007 Manual #3, pgs 11-12]



Procedures – continued

- Appraisal & Review required for all sponsors
 - Required for acquisitions \$10,000 and greater
 - Federal programs (ex: LWCF) use UASFLA, aka Yellow Book
 - All other programs use USPAP
 - Shelf life of 12 months (state-funded grant programs may extend to 18 months with review appraiser certification)
 - The review appraisal establishes fair market value
- USPAP a few exceptions
 - List & justify Extraordinary Assumptions & Hypothetical Conditions
 - USPAP must be Self-Contained or Summary Format (Restricted format not allowed)
- Share Manual #3 with your Appraiser

[2007 Manual #3, pgs 15-19]



Procedures – continued

- Encumbrances
 - Property must be free of encumbrances that limit intended use
 - Appraisals must include consideration of existing encumbrances
 - Do your best to clear title where possible



[2007 Manual #3, pg 11]



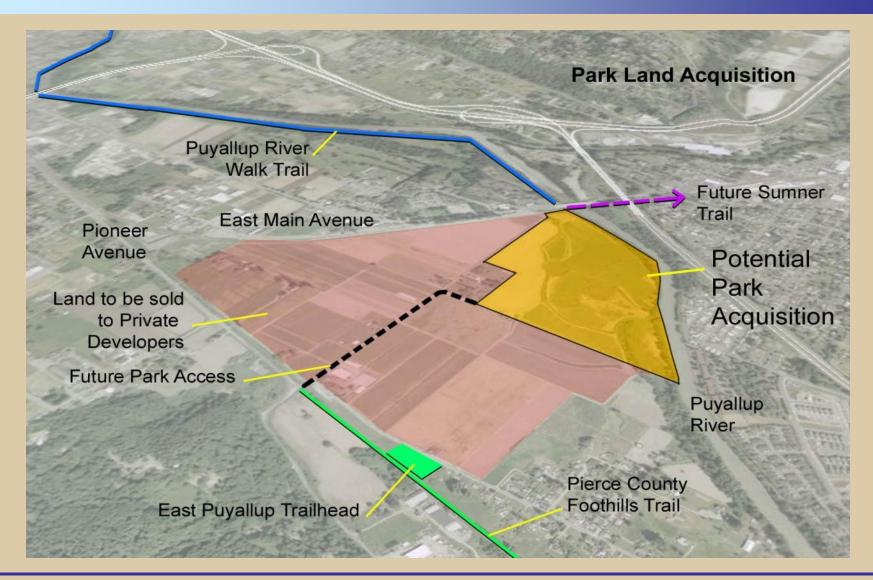
Procedures – continued

- Donations documentation required that owner:
 - Was aware of estimated just compensation
 - Was offered the estimated just compensation
 - Made the choice voluntarily
- Escrow Payments
 - Grants typically on reimbursement basis, however:
 - Payments into escrow (advance) by RCO are allowable
 - Request must include copies of several documents
 - Submit request at least 3 weeks before closing
 - RCO funds must be paid out of escrow within 10 days

[2007 Manual #3, pg 14]



Acquisition Projects





Combination Projects

Acquisition and...

- · Development, restoration
- Eligible projects vary by program consult manuals

Timing – at least one month before board approval:

- Acquire under Waiver of Retroactivity
- Have property in escrow
- Obtain option on property
- Provide copies to grant manager

Timing – within 90 days after board approval:

- Exercise option
- Acquire property



Multi-Site Strategy – Some habitat projects

Requires written strategy identifying how parcels were prioritized:

- Ecological significance
- Threat
- Access
- Site management
- Landowner needs

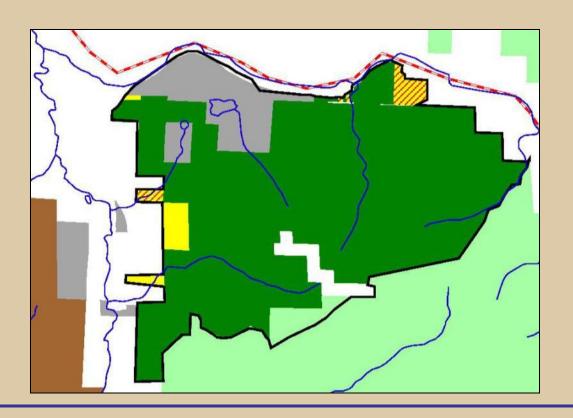
Strategy will be shared with RCO staff and evaluators – could lead to recommendation to split projects or special conditions to ensure adequate conservation targets are reached





Mapping Targeted Parcels or Geographic Envelope

- Show existing ownership
- Show potential parcels to acquire

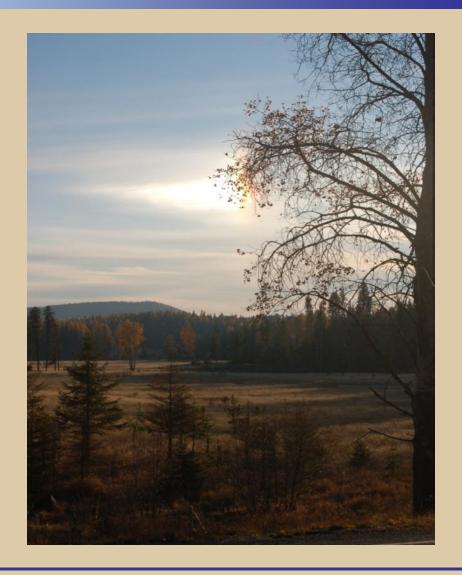




Acquisition Projects

Cultural resources

- RCO is lead unless state or federal agency applicant, or on federal land
- May be required to perform Cultural or Historic Resources Survey
- This is an eligible cost (reimbursement) item





Long Term Protection

Deed of Right

- Required for all property acquired in fee
- Conveys property interests to the public forever
- · Recorded at closing

Assignment of Rights – for Conservation Easements

- Required for most conservation easements
- · Secures the public interest
- Executed and recorded after sponsor takes title to the property

Conversions

Must find and acquire replacement property

[2007 Manual #3, pgs 3-4]



Documents required to avoid conversion:

Fee Acquisitions

- Deed of Right required for all property acquired in fee
 - Conveys property interests to the public forever
 - Recorded at closing

Less than fee acquisitions

- Habitat Conservation easements Assignment of Rights Required
 - Executed and recorded after sponsor takes title to the property
- Agricultural Conservation easements RCO is Third Party
 - Language within easement
- Recreation easements Trail for example

[2007 Manual #3, pgs 3-4]

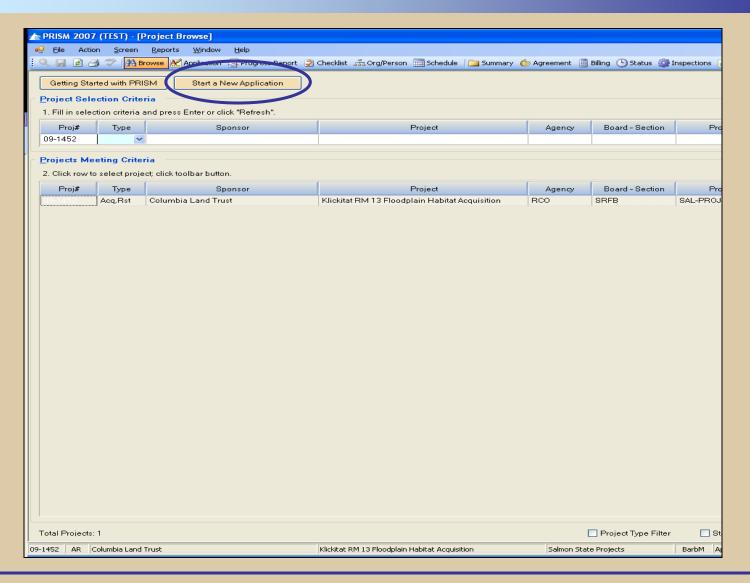




- Application wizard
- Three levels of PRISM
- Categories, work types and cost estimates
- Project metrics^{New!}
- If funded, this becomes the basis for grant limits and scope of work for the Project Agreement.

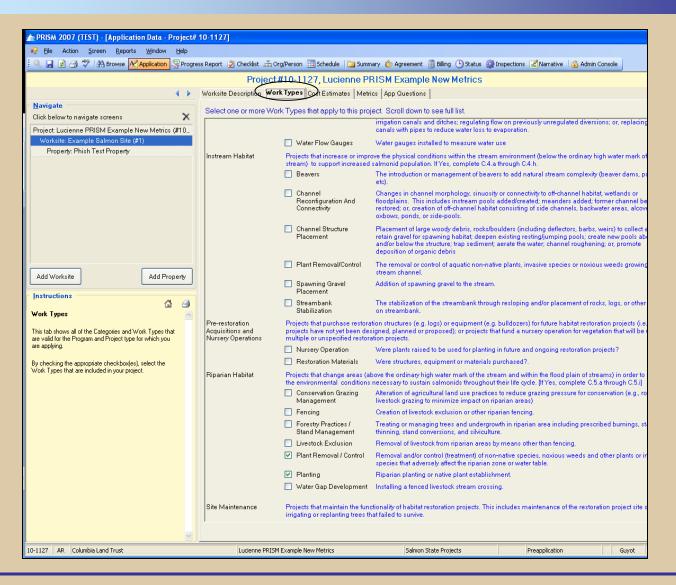


New application wizard



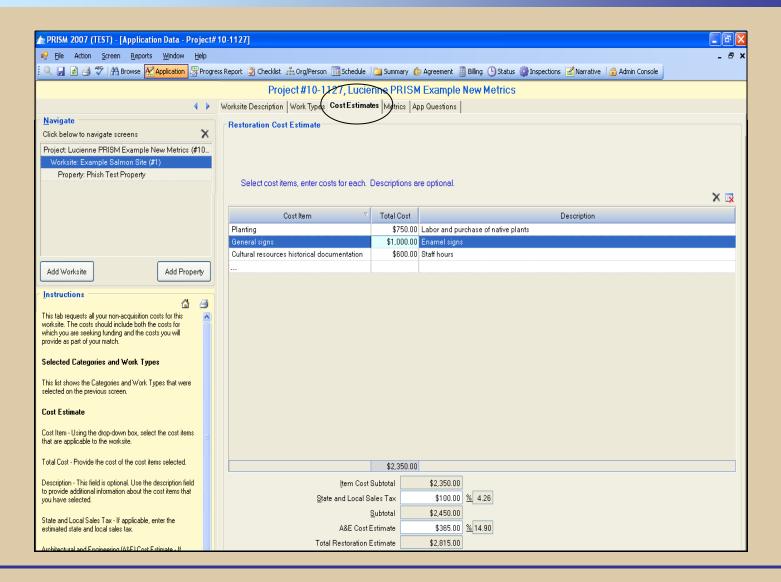


Project Work Types



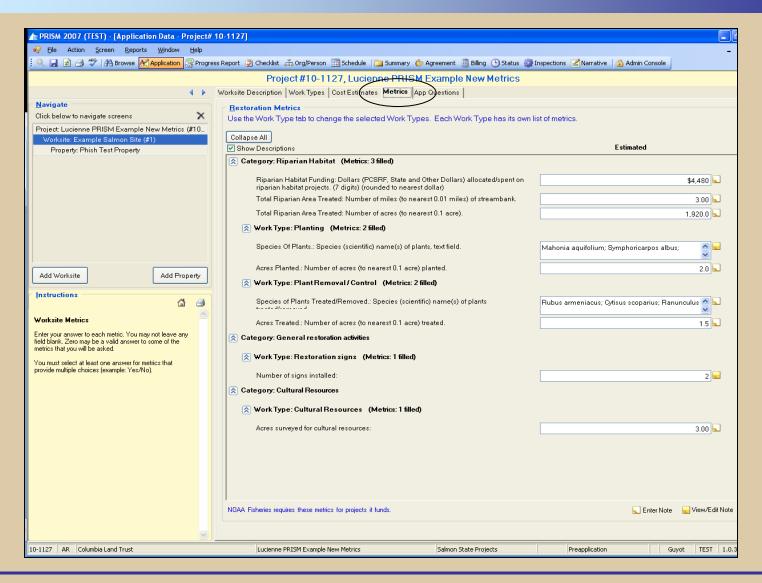


Project Cost Estimates



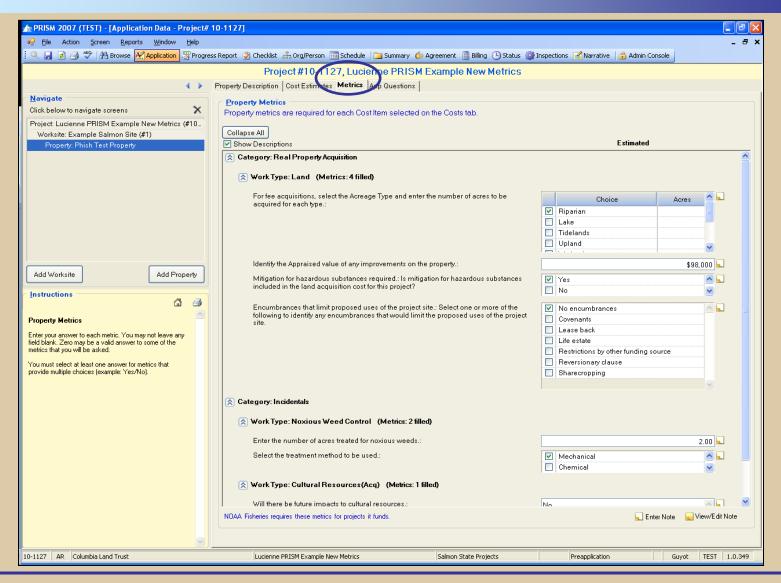


Work Type Metrics





Acquisition Metrics







More information available online:

www.rco.wa.gov

- Acquiring Land (Manual #3)
- Grant Program Manuals for ALEA, LWCF, WWRP
- RCO Grant Manager Assignment Map

Critical dates to remember:

- Pre-application Due March 15, 2010
- Applications Due May 3, 2010





Questions?

